



Virginia Israel Advisory Board

Office of the Governor

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting

November 28, 2017 House Room 1, Richmond, Virginia

Attended in Person: Irv Blank, Bob Budoff, Jerome Chapman, Mel Chaskin, Donald Ferguson (OAG), Daniel Fogel (Director of Communications Richmond Federation), Will Frank, Joel Kanter, Julie Krachman, Chuck Lessin, Abby Moore, Jay Myerson, Nathan Shor, Steven Skaist, Julie Strauss

Attended Via Conference Call: Jeff Brooke, Mark Dreyfus, Darcy Hirsch, Dov Hoch, Robin Mancoll, Leigh Nusbaum (for Eileen Filler-Corn), Aaron Roberts

1. Mel Chaskin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
2. The Board Minutes of July 18, 2017 were presented. They were accepted as presented. Some of the Board members asked Mel to make sure that they were on the distribution list. They also asked that all meeting "pre-reads" be distributed sufficiently ahead of time so all had time to review them before the meetings.
3. Mel introduced the two new Board members. Steven Skaist is an attorney in Richmond. Julie Strauss is an attorney in the Northern Virginia area. Mel reminded all Board members that they need to get sworn in before they take any Board actions. If any Board members have questions on the process they can contact Mel.
4. New Hire in Israel – Mel reported that while waiting for the Governor's Office to approve VIAB's new Executive Director we are bringing on a temporary part/time hire as our Israel Representative. Dov Hoch was one of the candidates that the Hiring Committee met. He will be helping VIAB with branding, conferences in Israel, and other tasks that forward VIAB's goals. He has a 3 month contract through February, 2018, and will be paid \$4,300 per month. His proposal with his goals and plans was handed out to all attendees for discussion. Mel said that all Virginia state governmental procedures have been followed for this hire. Ralph Robbins will continue to help VIAB on a volunteer basis and has met several times with Dov. Julie Krachman and Aliza Asher are continuing as part-time Program Coordinators. Mel Chaskin will continue serving as Chairman, Chuck Lessin will continue serving as Vice Chairman.

5. Program Updates:

- a. Aviva Frye is continuing to work with Energix but has nothing new to report.
 - b. Mel reported that Julie Krachman and he had a meeting with ISM, a safe manufacturer. Asher Kotz of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority also attended the meeting. The team will be working with ISM to help them establish a presence in Virginia. They are looking to move some manufacturing and marketing to the U.S. Joel Kanter mentioned that he had some possible contacts for ISM. Julie Krachman will follow up on this and make the introductions.
 - c. Chuck Lessin and Julie Krachman reported on EPC's progress. The company, which has unique technology to treat wastewater without sewer or septic, continues to have success in Tazewell, Virginia. VIAB introduced the company to their U.S. CEO – Charles Botwick. Board members can read more about the company in VIAB's newsletter.
 - d. Chuck met with the CEO, Dr. Tamir Gedo, of BOL Pharma which has done some very promising research into medical uses of the cannabis plant to treat the symptoms of Parkinson's and autism. They are looking at expanding into the U.S. through Virginia. One possibility could be their move to the soon to be vacant TEVA plant in Forest, Virginia. Chuck will continue to follow up with them.
 - e. Several Israel Embassy representatives met with Chuck Lessin and offered their availability to assist with any future projects where they could be helpful.
 - f. Chuck also met with representatives from Insightec which uses targeted ultrasound to treat many different diseases. They are very interested in growing in Virginia.
6. Annual Report – Mel told the Board that the Annual Report has been published and has gone to Cabinet Secretaries and most of the members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. It is also up on the Virginia legislative site and Julie Krachman will be getting it up on the VIAB website. In summary VIAB continues to offer Virginia excellent return on our funding through job retention, job growth, and economic development. Our Federation members asked that the Annual Report be directly emailed to their representatives.
7. Update on Minds in Motion 2017 – Ellie Shaharabany reported on the MIM fundraiser. 62 Israeli artists will be coming here to show their work. Ellie is preparing their schedule and will be grateful for any assistance that the VIAB Board can offer. Julie Krachman offered to post any PR on the VIAB website. There are several events but the main events will be March 14 and 15th. The next MIM program in Israel will be January 14-26 and all Board members are invited to attend.

8. Update on Executive Director – Mel and Chuck reported on the status of the hiring of VIAB’s new Executive Director. The three candidates that were chosen by the Board are waiting at the Governor’s office for approval. Governor McAuliffe has offered the decision for appointment to the incoming Governor. Mel and Chuck also reported on some proposed changes to the VIAB charter and the possibility of a bill introduction to the Virginia legislature to execute these changes. A draft bill has been submitted by Senator Chap Peterson and Mel will share the link to the bill with all of the Board members. Whatever bill is proposed will have bipartisan support of the Virginia legislature and we will make sure we have support of the JCRCs. Nathan Shor requested that detailed information about any bill submitted be sent to all of the Board with enough time for review. Mel will send out the VIAB charter, any proposed changes, and a link to the bill. Don Ferguson, our representative from the Virginia Attorney General’s Office, will also assist. The VIAB budget will not be affected by any changes to the charter.

The next Board Meetings are scheduled for 3/27/18 and 7/24/18.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05.